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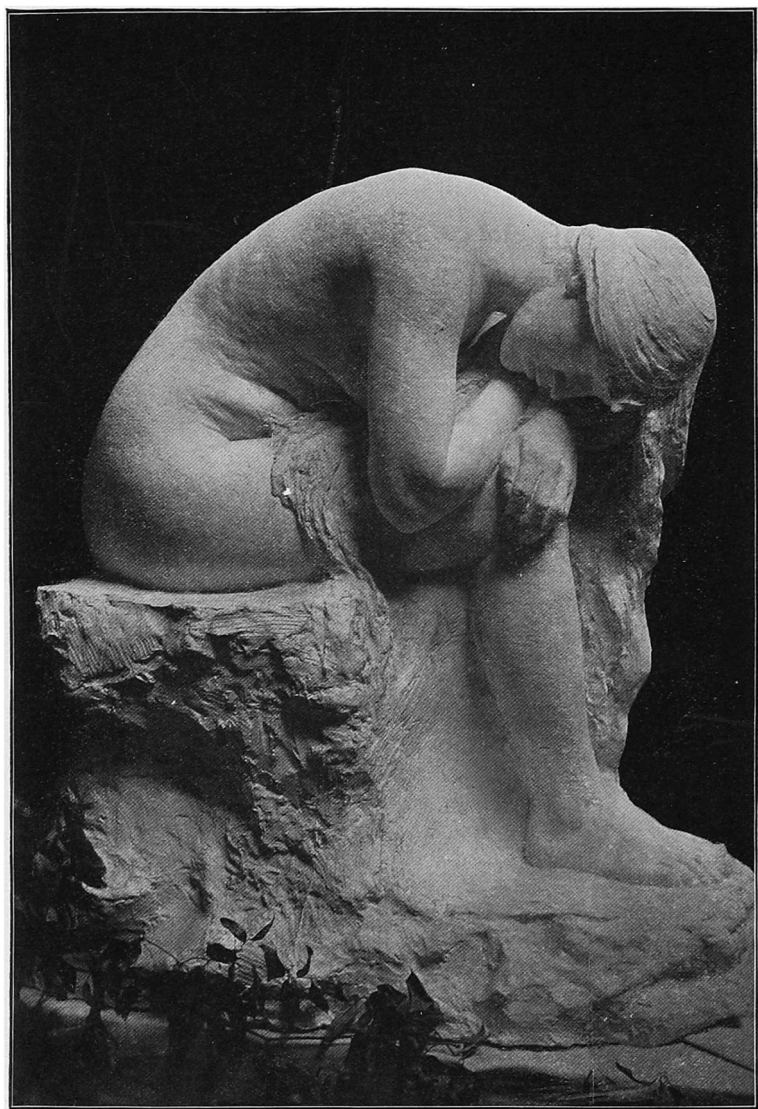
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## DESPAIR

BY LORADO TAFT

Though bowed above thine everlasting grief,—  
Thy loosened locks in sorrow dropping low,  
Thy Greek-like beauty touched with secret woe,—  
We cannot pray for thee a swift relief,  
For beauty is at best so rare and brief,—  
The gift supreme that only gods bestow,  
And snatch from us ere yet we fully know,—  
That of our all we count it e'en the chief.  
And while with thee we cannot choose but mourn,  
And ask that to thy heart the years will bear  
Some sweetness that shall make it less forlorn;—  
We yet would keep thee in thy sorrow fair,  
And thank the gods that thou wast ever born  
To make us all in love with deep despair.

—HORACE SPENCER FISKE.



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